

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 1125 SENT SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS

CAIRO LONDON MEXICO OTTAWA PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM TEL AVIV

BEIRUT TOKYO EC BRUSSELS GENEVA NATO DATED JAN 14.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

REF: EC BRUSSELS 00265

1. SUMMARY. IRVING BROWN WILL BE VISITING ILO DG  
BLANCHARD AND POSSIBLY ISRAEL IN HIS EFFORTS TO POST-  
PONE DISCUSSION IN MARCH MEETING OF ILO GOVERNING BODY  
DISCUSSION OF PLO AND RELATED ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. IRVING BROWN, AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE FOR EUROPE  
IN PARIS, IS PREPARING HIMSELF FOR HIS FIRST TEST AS  
U.S. WORKER DELEGATE TO THE ILO GOVERNING BODY WHICH  
IS SCHEDULED TO MEET 3 MARCH. IN TALKING TO LABATT  
HE IDENTIFIED PLO REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS AS A  
DIFFICULT PROBLEM WHICH, DEPENDING ON HOW IT IS  
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HANDED, MAY AFFECT ILO'S FUTURE AS A TRIPARTITE

ORGANIZATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH AFL-CIO AND EVENTUALLY USG.

3. BROWN RECOGNIZES THAT IF THE MATTER CAME TO A VOTE PLO WOULD OBTAIN RECOGNITION. AS A RESULT HIS STRATEGY IS TO PREVENT SUCH A VOTE. HE IS RELYING FOR THAT ON COORDINATION WITH ICFTU (REFTEL) AND ON STRONG LEADERSHIP FROM ILO-DG FRANCIS BLANCHARD (FRANCE) WHOM BROWN PLANS TO VISIT IN GENEVA THIS WEEK. BROWN INTENDS TO BE "ABSOLUTELY FRANK" WITH BLANCHARD BY CAUTIONING HIM THAT IF HE FAILS TO DRAW UPON HIS PANOPLY OF WAYS AND MEANS TO STALL AND PREVENT THE GOVERNING BODY FROM DISCUSSING PLO ISSUE, "HE WILL BE ACCUSED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, AS INSTRUMENT OF FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY". WHILE HE WILL NOT SPECULATE WHAT AFL-CIO IS LIKELY TO DO IN THE EVENT ILO CONTINUES TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICAL ISSUES OF TYPE EXEMPLIFIED BY PLO, BROWN WILL LEAVE NO DOUBT IN BLANCHARD'S MIND ABOUT SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ILO IF IT DOES NOT CONCENTRATE ON ITS PRIMARY MISSION IN LABOR FIELD.

4. BROWN BELIEVES THAT QUESTION OF THE "PALESTINE" RESOLUTION PASSED BY ILO CONFERENCE LAST JUNE MAY BE EASIER TO HANDLE. HE IS AWARE THAT A GOOD NUMBER OF FORMULAS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION, SOME ORIGINATING WITH BLANCHARD HIMSELF TO POSTPONE OR LIMIT GB DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT. IN THIS CONNECTION ANTOINE FAESCH, FO WORKER DELEGATE TO ILO, HAS COME UP WITH LEGALISTIC ARGUMENT THAT ISRAEL IS FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL LAW BY OBSERVING LEGISLATION IN EFFECT PRIOR TO JUNE 1967 AND THEREFORE ANY CRITICISM FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS SHOULD BE

ADDRESSED TO JORDAN RATHER THAN ISRAEL. BROWN IS INTRIGUED BY THIS ARGUMENT EVEN IF IT IS, AS HE SAID, A TECHNICAL ONE AND INTENDS TO CHECK ITS VALIDITY AND USEFULNESS WHILE IN GENEVA.

5. DEPENDING UPON OUTCOME OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BLANCHARD, BROWN INTENDS TO VISIT ISRAEL TO COORDINATE TACTICS AND STRATEGY. HE REMAINS CONVINCED THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO GAIN TIME BY DELAYING ANY GB DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. HE FEELS THAT BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE WHEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE "A LOT OF THINGS" CAN HAPPEN IN OTHER FORA TO RELIEVE PRESSURES ON ILO.

6. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH BROWN SPOKE WARMLY ABOUT RESULTS OF HIS MEETING WITH ICFTU'S KERSTEN AND VANDERVECKEN, EVERYTHING HE SAID OR INTIMATED IN PARIS SUSTAINS THE LUCID CONCLUSION OF REFTEL THAT IT WOULD BE AN ILLUSION TO INTERPRET HIS CONTACTS AS A SIGNAL OF AFL-CIO RETURN TO ICFTU. THESE CONTACTS, HOWEVER, ARE NONE THE LESS SIGNIFICANT FOR THAT. THEY CONFIRM AFL-CIO INTENTION TO RETURN TO EUROPE.  
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